(d) details of National Health Schemes to be continued with renewed thrust and changes under consideration,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) In view of the new priorities which have emerged in the health sector and keeping in mind the status of attainment of various goals it has been decided to undertake an exercise leading to the revision of the policy. This is at a preliminary stage.

(c) The thrust areas in the health sector inter-alia include measures to contain emerging and re-emerging diseases, improvement of surveillance and epidemic response systems, reproductive and child health, capacity building of institutions and health infrastructure and greater health education.

(d) The major National Health Programmes for control/eradication of communicable and non-communicable diseases like malaria, TB., leprosy, blindness, AIDs, cancer and the Family Welfare programmes will continue with much vigour.

Financial Assistance From the Discretionary Quota of the Minister

385. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people have sought financial assistance for major operationUreatment from the discretionary grant of the Heatlh Minister during 1993 to December, 1996;

(b) total number of beneficiaries under the said discretionary grant during the said year;

(c) total amount released for the said grant during the said year;

(d) whether it is a fact that the applications for the said grant from the poor persons were not processed in time even after submitting all the required documents; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Ministry to release grant well in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The total number of people who have sought financial assistance for major operationUreatment from discretionary grant of Health Minister during 1995 to December, 1996 is 4544 only.

(b) The total number of persons benefitted under the said scheme of discretionary grant during the said period is 690 only.

(c) The total amount released under the said scheme of grant during the said period is Rs. 80,25,887/- (Rupee? eighty lakhs twenty five thousands eight hundred eighty seven only).

(d) and (e) No, Applications for financial assistance are processed promptly. Immediately
on receipt of applications with complete information/documents the cases are submitted
for consideration of Hon'ble Health Minister with the recommendations of Directorate General of Health Services. The commitment letters of sanctioned amount is issued to the concerned hospital for treatment\operation of the patients with the request to send the information whether the patient has been admitted. On getting confirmation from the hospital that the patient has been admitted, amount of sanctioned grant is immediately released to the hospital.

Steps to Educate people for Taking Preventive Measure Against Aids

386. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Indian Express dated 23rd December, 1996, under the caption "study points given picture of AIDS in India"; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to properly educate the people about it and also to take precautionary and preventive steps to contain the spread of the dreadful and suicidal disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the media of communication including interpersonal communication are being used both by Central and State Govemment to create public awareness about how HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) spread, how these can be prevented and

how these are not transmitted. All the Media Units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting viz. Doordarshan, All India Radio, Directorate of Advertising and visual publicity, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Films Division and Press Information Bureau are involved in disseminating AIDS prevention messages. Besides, nongovernmental organisations are involved in AIDS awareness activities and implementation of intervention project for those practicing high risk behaviour. Those who attend STD clinics are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection. Counselling services for prgyention of HIV/AIDS in STD clinics and other health care services are being strengthened as part of a Counselling Services Training Project launched for implementation in late 1996.

Need for Opening More Medical Colleges due to shortage of Doctors in Country

387.SHRI JOY NAD KKARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have conducted any
survey as to the population-doctor ratio in India
at present;

(b) whether it is felt that there is requirement of more doctors and hospitals; and

(c) if so, whether Govemment would open more medical colleges, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERYANI): (a) and(b) The doctor population ratio for allopathic doctor is about 1:2, 250. However, taking into account the number of qualified practitioners in Indian system of Medicine & Homeopathy, the said ratio would be about 1:950. As per a report of the Medical Council of India, there is no acute shortage of trained doctors in the country.

(c) The proposal regarding opening of Medical colleges are being processed in accordance with provision of section 10A of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993.

Applications for Opening New Medical Colleges

388. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications in the prescribed form with payment of application fee and bank guarantee for establishment of new medical colleges have been received alongwith names and address of the applicants;

(b) how many medical colleges have been sanctioned by the government during 1993-94 to 1996-97 year-wise and the names of such colleges;

(c) whether the State Govemment have issued NOC in case of all the sanctioned colleges or colleges have been sanctioned subject to State Govemment-NOC; and

(d) how many of the sanctioned colleges have actually been functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Details of applications received, complete in all respects, are given in the Statement *(see* below)

(b) A list of medical colleges permitted to be established by the Central Govemment after the enforcement of Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993 till date is at statement-ll *(see* below).

(c) Central Govemment permission is granted only after obtaining an essentiality certificate from the concerned State Government as prescribed under the regulation. However, in one case, permission has been given without insisting upon essentiality certificate, as per direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) As per information available, one medical college out of those permitted to be established by the Central Government has not started functioning till 31.10.1996.

Statement-I

Details of applications reserved for opening New Medical colleges

S.No.	Name & address of applicant
1.	President, Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariayaram, Kannur, Kerala.
2.	Executive President & Director, Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Education Research, Talegaon, Dhabade, Pune.